

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Techniques are disclosed for hot-swapping devices in a computer system while maintaining the system integrity. One embodiment of the techniques uses an interface bridge between the system and a device complying with the Integrated Drive Electronic (IDE) standard. The bridge uses the IDE protocol to communicate with the device and uses the Small Computer System Interface (SCSI) protocol to communicate with the system. Consequently, with respect to the system, the bridge is treated as a SCSI device. In accordance with the techniques disclosed herein, hot swapping the device occurs on one side of the bridge, and the system on the other side of the bridge is well informed of such hot swapping in order to respond accordingly. As a result, the bus on the system side, is shielded from hot swapping disruption, thereby maintaining the system integrity.